

Chester Gray was constantly described as "a gentleman", one of a vanishing breed of men who was elegant, articulate and cultured. But he was more, he was compassionate, a friend, a supporter and mentor. He had high standards and expectations. "Chet" or as he liked to refer to himself, "The Silver Fox", had a zest for living. Unaffected by the passage of time he was debonair, worldly, a man of great humor, twinkling eyes and a broad smile. He believed in finding positive solutions and believed in conciliation.

Chester had a Forty-Seven year long love affair with his beloved Frances, who preceded him in death. They were blessed with one son, Chester, Jr. a resident of Philadelphia, Pa. Chester lived life to the fullest: golfing, traveling, dancing, cooking, reading, writing, practicing Tai Chi, sharing time with his wonderful world of diverse friends. He was indeed a "Man for all Seasons". We will miss him, but remember him with love.

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
AUBRIE WASICEK**

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Aubrie Wasicek is an outstanding student and loving daughter; and

Whereas, Aubrie Wasicek has been acknowledged by Adams Elementary School for her outstanding academic achievements; and

Whereas, Aubrie Wasicek should be commended for her academic excellence, for her dedication to learning, and for her willingness to obtain and share the knowledge she has gained; and

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Audra Wasicek for her outstanding accomplishment.

**MOURNING THE LOSS OF SGT.  
GERARDO MORENO**

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sorrow for the loss of a young soldier from my district, Sgt. Gerardo Moreno, 23, of Terrell, Texas. Gerardo, who was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division based in Fort Hood, Texas, died on April 6 in Ashula, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He had been in Iraq since early January and was killed in a grenade attack.

Following graduation from Terrell High School in 1999, Gerardo enlisted in the Army. He was a dedicated soldier and upstanding citizen of Terrell, Texas. In a show of support for the fallen soldier, the residents of Terrell lined Moore Avenue on the morning of his funeral to pay their respects. He was laid to rest in Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Gerardo was also a devoted family man. He is survived by his wife, Teresa Moreno of Terrell and their two children, Dominique and

Marrisol Moreno. Mourning his death are also his mother, Sandra E. Iracheta, and her husband, Noe Iracheta; father, Gerardo Moreno; brother, Jose J. Moreno; step sisters, Yara and Yadira Perez; grandmother, Rita Iracheta of Terrell; grandfather, Israel Iracheta of San Antonio, and other family members.

Mr. Speaker, Gerardo left Texas in defense of our Nation, and he returned to Texas a hero. He made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation, and we are forever indebted to him and to our brave men and women who are serving in our armed forces. As we adjourn today in the House of Representatives, let us do so by joining with the good citizens of Terrell in honoring this American hero, Sgt. Gerardo Moreno, and extending our deepest condolences to his family and friends. May God bless them and bring them comfort in their time of sorrow.

**CONGRATULATING INDUCTEES  
AND MEMBERS OF THE NA-  
TIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY  
OF BELL OAKS UPPER ELEMEN-  
TARY SCHOOL IN BELLMAWR,  
NEW JERSEY**

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the newest inductees and two-year members of the National Junior Honor Society of Bell Oaks Upper Elementary School in Bellmawr, New Jersey. These students have earned this recognition due to their excellence both inside and outside the classroom, and they should be proud of their accomplishments.

The National Junior Honor Society was established in 1929, 8 years after the establishment of the National Honor Society. Both organizations were established to recognize outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Students are expected to demonstrate proficiency not just in their classroom studies, but in school activities and community service as well. Each of the recent inductees and current members of the Bell Oaks National Junior Honor Society is to be commended for their dedication to knowledge and service.

On May 24 at 7 p.m. Bell Oaks Upper Elementary School inducted the following 7th Graders: Caitlin Concannon, Charles Dyer, David Funk, Breelynn Hammerle, Jake Huffner, John Ippolite, Maryam Jamil, Erica Lopez, Jacob McGranaghan, Stephen Miles, Joseph Newsham, Priyanka Patel, Charles Robinson, Mark Unger, Judith Wallen, Brett Walren, and Lidia Wilczynska. The 8th Graders inducted were Justin Borrelli, Bryan Cheeseman, Donovan Ortiz, Ashley Parker, Steven Sheehan, and Christopher Todd. The National Junior Honor Society Two Year Members are as follows: Michael Anthony, Hinnah Aslam, Lorin Barry, Joshua Bloomquist, Laura Buonpastore, Lauren Burmylo, Anthony DiLolle, Edward DiMatta, Nicholas Fishman, Danielle Landis, Brittany Magnin, Michael Malason, Meghan Mitchell, Sean O'Donnell, Stephen Paul, Brittney Rehrig, Amanda Roop, Blair Rundsmom, Matthew Salvano, Jessie Sibiski, Thomas Teschko, and Britney Yocum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating each of these students on their dedication to scholarship and commitment to community service. Their enthusiasm for learning and helping others is admirable, and I am certain that they will continue to excel in these areas and remain leaders in their community.

**TRIBUTE TO MS. DORCAS R.  
HARDY**

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Dorcas R. Hardy, who, among her many noteworthy accomplishments, served as the Chairman of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Task Force.

In May 2003, VA Secretary Anthony Principi established the Task Force to give the VR&E program "an unvarnished, top-to-bottom independent examination, evaluation, and analysis." Chairman Hardy fulfilled the challenge with an extensive testimony before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on the operations, findings, and recommendations to improve the VR&E program.

Included among the Task Force's 100-plus recommendations is a new, five-track employment process aimed at assisting veterans with finding and retaining employment. The report also includes recommendations focusing on four categories: programs, organizations, work processes, and integrating capacities. Ms. Hardy summarized the recommendations best by saying that they are necessary for the program "to be effective in the 21st Century" and they will help "to communicate to veterans and partners that the purpose of the program is employment." Indeed, long-term sustained employment should be the goal of every vocational rehabilitation participant.

Ms. Hardy received her B.A. from Connecticut College, her M.B.A. from Pepperdine University, and completed the Executive Program in Health Policy and Financial Management at Harvard University.

Ms. Hardy is also the President of Dorcas R. Hardy & Associates, a government relations and public policy firm serving a diverse portfolio of clients in the health services, insurance, financial and associated industries. She has a distinguished record of public service culminating with her appointment in 1986 by the late President Ronald Reagan as the Commissioner of Social Security.

With Ms. Hardy's continued dedication to public service, America and her veterans benefit. For this, I pay her tribute.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAILE  
KELLER**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Maile Keller of Glenwood Springs, Colorado for her ability to overcome obstacles